

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-19 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1, 6-8, and 11 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. In addition, new claims 13-19 are hereby submitted for consideration.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including page 8, lines 13-20 of the specification and Fig. 4. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Interview Summary

The telephone interview was conducted with the Examiner Stephen Avila on July 31, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to that the term "a pivotal point" recited in amended claim 1 would be supported by the specification. However, no agreement was reached regarding the allowability of the proposed claim amendments.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tuurna. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

The Examiner asserted that a backbone and a strut as recited in claim 1 may read on a sail batten 13 and a boom 4 of Tuurna, respectively. The Examiner further asserted that Tuurna's device is capable of being hinged at the upper end thereof the fore end of the backbone to be movable between a position extending downward from the fore end of the